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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Authority, Among Other Things, to Increase Rates and Charges for Electric and Gas Service Effective on January 1, 2017. (U39M)

Application 15-09-001
(Filed September 1, 2015)

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING AND AMENDED SCOPING MEMO

Pursuant to Rule 7.3(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules)¹ and following the prehearing conference (PHC) held on October 29, 2015, this ruling provides an Amended Scoping Memo for this proceeding, the General Rate Case (GRC) Phase 1 application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for authority to increase its gas and electric distribution and electric generation base revenue requirements based on a 2017 test year.

The first Scoping Memo was issued in this proceeding by ruling dated December 1, 2015 (December 2015 Scoping Memo). Among other things, that Scoping Memo scheduled three weeks of evidentiary hearings, to take place June 13, 2016 through July 2, 2016.

As encouraged in the December 2015 Scoping Memo, PG&E and other parties have been pursuing settlement of the contested issues in this proceeding.

¹ All subsequent references to Rules are to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The current version of the Rules is available on the Commission's website: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&DocID=89380172>.

On June 3, 2016, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a ruling granting a request by PG&E, the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) and The Utility Reform Network (TURN) to postpone two weeks of the previously scheduled evidentiary hearings, and to adjust the corresponding deadlines for (1) submission of parties' cross-examination estimates to PG&E and (2) filing and service of the case management statement by PG&E. On June 20, 2016, PG&E, ORA and TURN (Moving Parties) filed a motion requesting a further extension of the schedule for evidentiary hearings and related deadlines in this proceeding, in order to allow settlement discussions to continue. On the same day, the assigned ALJ granted the request in that motion for postponement of the due dates for cross-examination estimates and the case management statement. The new due dates for those milestones are July 25 and July 27, 2016, respectively. However, the primary request in that motion, for a new procedural schedule based on revised hearing dates, was left to be addressed in this ruling.

The Moving Parties proposed two revised schedules in their motion: one schedule assuming that no settlements are reached, so that three weeks of hearings remain necessary, and a second schedule assuming that a motion for settlement is filed, such that fewer days of workshops and/or hearings would be necessary to provide an opportunity for review of the settlement and cross examination regarding any remaining contested issues. On June 21, 2016, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) responded to the motion, requesting a modification to the proposed due date for Reply Briefs but otherwise supporting the request by the Moving Parties.

It is reasonable to revise the schedule established in the December 2015 Scoping Memo to provide additional time for parties to attempt to reach settlement. The scheduling request made by A4NR should also be honored.

Therefore, the schedule in this proceeding shall be revised based upon Moving Parties' proposed "No Settlement" scenario, as shown in Table 1 below.

Moving Parties state that their "Settlement" schedule is necessarily less certain because they do not yet know the exact date by which settlement may be achieved. In the event that a motion to adopt a settlement is filed by July 11, 2016, Moving Parties propose that the week of August 25 – September 2, 2016 should be used for a workshop and hearings to review that settlement. However, if a settlement motion is filed after that date, that motion shall include a proposed schedule to replace the schedule adopted below.

Table 1
MODIFIED PROCEEDING SCHEDULE

Activity	Date
Cross examination estimates due from parties to PG&E	July 25, 2016
Case management statement filed and served by PG&E	July 27, 2016
Evidentiary Hearings Begin at 9:00 a.m. Commission Courtroom State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102	August 3 – 12 and August 25 – September 2, 2016
Joint Comparison Exhibit submitted	September 23, 2016
Opening brief	October 3, 2016
Reply brief	October 25, 2016
Proposed decision	January 5, 2017
Final decision	February 9, 2017

It is anticipated that this proceeding will conclude within 18 months of the issuance of this Amended Scoping Memo, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5.

IT IS RULED that pursuant to Rule 7.3(a) of the Commission's Rules, this Amended Scoping Memo is adopted. The schedule for the proceeding is modified as described in Table 1 above.

Dated June 23, 2016, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MICHAEL PICKER

Michael Picker
Assigned Commissioner